

24 February 1972

"On 9 October 1950, General Smith was sworn in as DCI...For Smith, to have an element of his agency not under his direction was absurd and patently unworkable. One of his first acts, upon becoming DCI, was to direct the merger of OSO and OPC. Then he wrote letters to the Secretaries of State and Defense, announcing that he had just done so. And so they were merged! Henceforth their unified activities were renamed as the Clandestine Services."

--The Field Support Staff, Office of Medical Services, 1947-1965, pp 19-20, in draft.

Errors of fact in the above statement:

1. General Smith was sworn in on 7 October 1950, not 9 October.

2. He did not, as one of his first acts, direct the merger of OPC and OSO. He did, at this time, assume control over OPC, which until that time had received its direction from State and Defense.

3. Smith did not write letters to State and Defense informing them of his action. He directed the AD/PC, Frank Wisner, to inform them of his action, which Wisner did at a meeting of the representatives of State, Defense, and the JCS on 11 October. Wisner informed the DCI of his action in a memorandum dated 12 October 1950.

4. At first Smith opposed the merger of OPC and OSO. Efforts by the new DDP (Allen W. Dulles) to improve coordination between OPC and OSO triggered the integration of certain administrative and support functions and initiated a trend toward merger, which spread when on 9 June 1951, the ADSO and ADPC agreed to combine their small Latin American Divisions into one common Western Hemisphere Division. As this trend took hold, the Near East and Africa Divisions were merged in October and the remainder of the divisions

in January 1952. General Smith was not persuaded that integration was desirable until the fall of 1951 and did not decree the merger of the two offices into the Clandestine Services until 15 July 1952, effective 1 August.

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